

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 2004/002365
filed on October 23, 2004.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] Prior Art **Field of the Invention**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The present invention relates to an electromagnet valve for controlling fluids, in particular for hydraulic systems in vehicles. ~~Various versions of such valves are known in the prior art. Fig. 2 shows one known electromagnet valve of the prior art. The valve 1 includes an armature 2, which is connected to an actuating element embodied as a tappet and can be moved in a known manner by means of a magnet coil 3. The armature 2 is movable inside a sleeve 4 in a known manner. The sleeve 4 is connected to a valve insert 11, which serves as a guide element for the actuating element 5. A restoring spring 6 returns the actuating element 5 to its outset position. The known valve further includes a valve body 12, in which an opening 14 that is to be closed and opened by the valve and a plastic insert 13 with a throttle restriction are located. To prevent the valve 1 from becoming soiled, two filters 9 and 10 are also provided. Via a check valve 8, any overpressure that may possibly occur in the valve is reversed. In the currentless state, the valve is constantly open.~~

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Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.2] Description of the Prior Art

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002.2]

[0002.4] Various versions of valves of the type with which this invention is concerned are known in the prior art and Fig. 2 shows one such known electromagnet valve. The valve 1 includes an armature 2, which is connected to an actuating element embodied as a tappet and can be moved in a known manner by means of a magnet coil 3. The armature 2 is movable inside a sleeve 4 in a known manner. The sleeve 4 is connected to a valve insert 11, which serves as a guide element for the actuating element 5. A restoring spring 6 returns the actuating element 5 to its outset position. This known valve further includes a valve body 12, in which an opening 14 that is to be closed and opened by the valve and a plastic insert 13 with a throttle restriction are located. To prevent the valve 1 from becoming soiled, two filters 9 and 10 are also provided. Via a check valve 8, any overpressure that may possibly occur in the valve is reversed. In the currentless state, the valve is constantly open.

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] A disadvantage of this valve is that the active part of the valve comprises a plurality of individual components, such as the valve insert 11, the valve body 12, and the plastic insert [[123]] 13. This increases the number of parts needed and makes assembly complicated. Moreover, especially if plastic is used for the ~~plastic~~ insert 13, damage can occur as loads increase and over the course of the service life. This is highly important, since more recent and future hydraulic systems in vehicles operate, or will operate at higher and higher pressures.

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Page 2, please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] ~~Advantages of the Invention~~

SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] The valve for controlling fluids according to the invention ~~as defined by the characteristics of claim 1~~ has the advantage over the prior art that it can be produced especially economically and has only a small number of parts. As a result, the assembly costs for the valve can also be reduced, which has especially great cost advantages because valves are items that are mass-produced on a large scale. According to the invention, this is attained in that the valve has a multifunctional component, which integrates multiple components into itself and takes on their functions. In particular, the multifunctional component takes on the function of the valve insert for guiding the actuating element, the function of the valve body, in which the opening to be opened and closed is located, and the function of a throttle component. The multifunctional component can accordingly replace a plurality of individual components that were previously used in the valve.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] Preferred refinements of the invention are shown **disclosed** ~~by the dependent claims~~.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] The multifunctional component also preferably includes a function for a check valve, by way of which an overpressure that may possibly be present can be **relieved** ~~reversed~~.

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] ~~Drawing~~ **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] One exemplary embodiment of the invention is described below in detail ~~[[in]]~~
herein below, in conjunction with the drawing, **in which:** ~~[[.]]~~ ~~In the drawing:~~

Page 4, please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiments~~

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please delete paragraph [0016].

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] **Fig. 1 shows a valve for controlling fluids in a preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention in which the** ~~[[The]]~~ valve 1 includes an armature 2, which can be moved back and forth in a sleeve 4 as a result of electric current being supplied to a magnet coil 3. The armature 2 is connected to an actuating element 6 in the form of a tappet, so that an opening 14 can be opened and closed. A restoring spring 6 furnishes restoration of the actuating element 5 and the armature 2 to their outset position. To prevent such contaminants as tiny metal chips or the like from getting into the valve 1, two filters 9 and 10 are also provided.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] The valve 1 according to the invention further includes a multifunctional component 7. Multiple functions are integrated in the multifunctional component 7. More precisely, the

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function of a valve insert for guiding the actuating element 5, the function of a valve body, in which the opening 14 to be opened and closed is embodied, and the function of a throttle component are integrated in the multifunctional component. The multifunctional component further includes a springless check valve 8, by way of which any overpressure that may occur can be ~~reversed~~ relieved.

Page 5, please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] The multifunctional component 7 of the magnet valve is produced by a powder metallurgy process and has a high load-bearing capacity, which is markedly higher than that of plastic parts. By the powder metallurgy production process, the requisite complex geometry of the throttle component can also be attained, while adhering to the necessary tolerance values. A multifunctional component 7 produced in this way moreover has increased fluid tightness, since because of the reduced number of parts involved, there are fewer sealing faces between the individual components of the valve. Depending on the intended use of the valve, the most various metal alloys can be used.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0021]:

[0022] The foregoing relates to a preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.